

Guide for Deciding To Attend Mass

For Mass, we are limited to 50% of the capacity of the Church building. If you arrive at the Church and we have reached our capacity, you will not be able to attend Mass. Please note that at the 10:00am Mass, the Parish Hall will be used for overflow. The screen will be used for the faithful to participate in Mass and Holy Communion will be brought over at the end of Mass.

This letter is intended to help clarify whether you should plan to continue to attend Mass via live streaming, or whether attending in person is an option for you. We recognize that the decision to attend Mass at the church is a very personal decision based on whether or not you feel you are ready to do so, taking into account many factors. If you are not comfortable for any reason, please continue to attend Mass via our live streaming alternative, as Bishop Sullivan has clarified that the dispensation for the faithful from the obligation to participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains effective throughout Phase I of re-opening.

Bishop Sullivan issues the following directives for the resumption of public Masses during Phase 1:

The dispensation for the faithful from the obligation to participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days **remains effective throughout Phase I of re-opening.**

Pastors are to encourage those who are at **high risk for contracting COVID-19 to stay home.**

Families with young children, (who may find it difficult to maintain a six-foot distance from others), are encouraged to stay home.

Those who are elderly and desire the Eucharist but are hesitant to come to Mass, may request Home Communion by contacting the Parish office prior to the weekend. If someone wishes to be trained as an Eucharistic Minister to bring the Eucharist to an elderly family member(s), we will offer training.

Pastors are to remind the faithful that if they have a cough or feel sick, they are not to participate in Mass or visit the church for any reason.

In accord with current public health recommendations, the faithful should wear cloth face coverings when in public, including when they come to church. Surgical masks or N-95 respirators are not recommended. Cloth face coverings **should not be placed on young children under age 2**, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance ([CDC Guidelines on Face Coverings](#)).

Holy Communion may not be distributed with gloves, nor may it be received in the hand if a member of the faithful is wearing gloves. (The priest will remove his chasuble, outer vestment, prior to distribution of Holy Communion. This is to safeguard the vestment in the event that someone coughs or sneezes while receiving Holy Communion from the priest.)

It is our recommendation that if you can't wear a face mask, or are simply uncomfortable doing so, that you continue to join our Mass via live streaming. Please see the website,

stmarycherryhill.org for more information. **Everyone entering the Church will be expected to wear a face mask for their protection and the protection of others. The face mask MUST cover BOTH mouth and nose for the entire time you are in the Church, except for receiving Communion.**

Restrooms, except in emergencies, will not be available for use, and the “Cry-room” and Chapel are also closed for use.

If you have any questions about the information being provided here, or whether or not you should attend Mass in person, please feel free to call our Parish office at 856-424-1454, ext 102.